

DETAILED ACTION

APPLICANTS' ARGUMENTS

Amended claims 10, 13-14, 16-18, cancelled claims 1-9, 11-12, 15, and new claims 19, and 20, filed 11/18/09, are acknowledged. Applicants' arguments and amendments, filed 11/18/09, have been fully considered and are persuasive with the Examiner's Amendment below. All of the previous rejections and objections have been withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gudrun Hockett on December 14, 2009.

In the claims:

In claim 10, line 9, delete "on a computing platform".

In claim 10, line 16, delete "in".

In claim 10, line 19, delete "in".

In claim 10, line 21, delete "in".

In claim 10, lines 26-27, delete “on a display; saving in a memory; or indicating on the display and saving in the memory”; replace with “; saving; or indicating and saving”.

In claim 10, lines 29-30, delete “on the display; saving in the memory; or indicating on the display and saving in the memory”; replace with “; saving; or indicating and saving”.

In claim 10, lines 45-46, delete “on the display; saving in the memory; or indicating on the display and saving in the memory”; replace with “; saving; or indicating and saving”.

In claim 13, line 2, delete “digitalizing”; replace with “recording”.

In claim 16, line 1, insert “wherein” after “claim 10,”.

In claim 16, line 2, delete “recording in”.

In claim 16, line 2, insert “comprises recording” after “step of recording”.

In claim 20, line 1, delete “outputting”; replace with “documenting”.

In claim 20, line 2, delete “as a documentation of microorganism loading”.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE:

The following is an examiner’s statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention is directed to a method for automatic identification of microorganisms collected on a carrier. The prior art does not disclose the method as it is claimed in the instant invention. The rejections and objections in the office action, mailed 3/25/09, are withdrawn due to claim amendments. Because no outstanding rejections remain, the claimed invention is deemed allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

EXAMINER INFORMATION

Papers related to this application may be submitted to Technical Center 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Technical Center 1600 via the PTO Fax Center. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notices published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1988), 1156 OG 61 (November 16, 1993), and 1157 OG 94 (December 28, 1993) (See 37 CFR §1.6(d)). The Central Fax Center number for official correspondence is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. If you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, please call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Carolyn Smith, whose telephone number is (571) 272-0721. The examiner can normally be reached Monday through Thursday from 8 A.M. to 6:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marjorie Moran, can be reached on (571) 272-0720.

December 14, 2009

/Carolyn Smith/
Primary Examiner
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